

REMARKS

Claims 31-54 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-30 are hereby cancelled without prejudice. Claims 31-54 are newly presented. Entry of this supplemental amendment and consideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Substance of Interviews

Claims 31-54 are newly presented pursuant to the telephonic interviews between Applicants' representative and the Examiner occurring on June 4, 2003, June 5, 2003, June 9, 2003, June 10, 2003 and culminating on June 11, 2003. During these telephonic interviews, independent claims 1, 5, and 21 were discussed along with their relation to U.S. Patent No.: 6,366,592 B1 to *Flanders*, U.S. Patent No.: 4,460,977 to *Shimada et al.*, and U.S. Patent No.: 6,574,257 B1 to *Thronton et al.*

Pursuant to the above referenced telephonic interviews, Applicants' representative agreed to amend the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, claims 31-54 are newly presented to this end.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the newly presented claims are distinguishable over the prior art of record and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.


CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: June 18, 2003


Cory G. Claassen
Reg. No. 50,296
Phone: (206) 292-8600

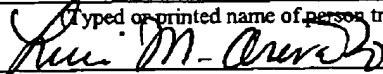
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile to (703) 746-8593, addressed to Examiner Hung T. Vy, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

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Luci M. Arevalo

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